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AUTHOR	Latchem, Colin
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ABSTRACT

This document is a start-up guide to the use of telecentres in support of distance education. The first section provides an introduction to the topic, including a brief history of telecentres. The second section discusses services offered by telecentres, locating and accommodating telecentres, and recruiting and training managers and staff. The third section looks at technology and infrastructure, including providing training on technology, creating educational awareness, and assisting with enrollments. The fourth section summarizes ways that telecentres can support the following aspects of distance learning: course outlines; teaching material; independent and guided study material; interactive lectures and seminars; assignment writing; tutorials and peer learning; private study; library and database searches; practical work and research; and laboratory work. The fifth section examines funding telecentre programs and services, including ways that telecentres can generate income. The sixth section considers learner follow-up, including measuring success. The conclusion lists criteria that will ensure that a telecentres will succeed in providing distance learning support. Contains a list of 19 titles for further reading and 15 related Web sites. (MES)

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